 **Fantasy Fiction**

“Charlotte’s Web” by E.B. White

Grade 4

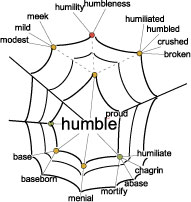
Wendy Picarella

This is an endearing tale of a runt-pig who is saved from certain death by early-rising farm girl, Fern Arabel. Fern names her new friend Wilbur and cares for him as a mother would a baby. Wilbur soon outgrows his accommodations at the Arabel farm and must relocate down the road to the Zuckerman’s barn. Wilbur is an emotionally sensitive swine who finds the barn to be rather unsettling, especially after the barn sheep tell him that he is likely to become the Zuckerman’s Christmas ham. Wilbur is comforted by a faceless voice that he later discovers to be Charlotte, a common garden spider. Wilbur and Charlotte become fast friends and their dedication to each other is undeniable. The determined Charlotte performs a series of miraculous web-weavings to save her friend’s life, knowing that hers will end before her plans come to fruition.

**Activity**

Analyze a passage from E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* and identify how the adjectives Charlotte uses to characterize Wilbur transform his life. Next, students design a "word web" to use in a game where students must guess adjectives used to describe themselves, based on synonym clues.

*Visual Thesaurus*



**Resources**

<http://www.visualthesaurus.com/cm/lessons/the-power-of-words-in-charlottes-web/>

<http://www.gradesaver.com/charlottes-web/study-guide/short-summary/>